

PATENTREMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending. Applicant received a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed 12/18/2003 in response to an amendment mailed by Applicant on 12/3/03. The Amendment was considered non-compliant in that in the "Amendments to the claims" section, each claim was not provided with the proper status identifier in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121.

Inspection of the Amendment filed by Applicant revealed that although amended claims were properly designated by the status identifier "Currently amended", the original claims did not include the "Original" identifier identifying the claim as original claims. Applicant herewith resubmits the "Amendments to the claims" section with the proper status identifiers on all claims, including the "Original" identifier on claims that were not amended.

As specified in the Notice, Applicant submitted the Amendment as a bona fide attempt to be a proper reply and was given a TIME PERIOD of ONE MONTH from the mailing date of the Notice to resubmit the correction section, or until January 18, 2004. Only the section of the amendment containing the omission or non-compliant provision must be re-submitted in its entirety in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(h). Applicant submits herewith the entire and corrected "Amendments to the claims section" with the proper status identifiers on all claims on or before to January 18, 2004 in compliance with section 37 CFR 1.121. Applicant respectfully submits that "Amendments to the claims" section is now compliant and requests consideration of the Amendment mailed 12/3/2003.

PATENTCONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons recited above and for various other reasons, the non-compliance of the "Amendments of the claims" section has been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits therefore that the present application is in a condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should this response be considered inadequate or non-responsive for any reason, or should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions that would expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, Applicants' undersigned representative earnestly requests a telephone conference at (512) 474-7678.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 5, 2004

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